

Appln No. 10/537,517
Amdt date October 8, 2008
Reply to Office action of June 24, 2008

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figure 1 and new Figures 2 and 3. These sheets, which include Figs. 1-3, replace the original sheet including Fig. 1.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

 Annotated Sheet

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4 and 6-12 are pending of which claims 1, 6, and 10 are independent. Claims 1-10 are now amended. Claims 11 and 12 are new. Claim 5 has been cancelled.

Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-12.

I. Objections to the Specification

The Office action objected to informalities in the specification. The specific changes requested are included in the amended specification. Similar amendments were made in corresponding areas. The specification is believed to be in proper form.

II. Objections to the Drawings

The Office action objected to the drawings for lack of reference characters and for not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The drawings have been amended and new drawings provided, with no new matter introduced, to provide a drawing for all claimed features. The current drawings are believed to be in proper form.

III. Claims Objected to for Informalities

Claims 5 and 10

Claims 5 and 10 were objected to in the Office action for improper dependent form. Claim 5 is cancelled. Claim 10 is now written in independent form. Current claim 10 is believed to be in proper form.

Claims 3-4 and 10

Claims 3-4 and 10 were objected to in the Office action for containing a non-functional “-” symbol. The “-” symbols have been removed from the amended claims. The current claims are believed to be in proper form.

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Claims 2-5 and 7-10

Claims 2-5 and 7-10 were objected to in the Office action for informalities. Each of the issues stated in the Office action has been addressed in the amendments. The current claims are all believed to be in proper form.

IV. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 2-3 and 7-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. More specifically, the Office action states that the function claimed for encryption was not defined. Applicants believe, however, that suitable encryption functions are well known and that one skilled in the art could practice the claimed invention from the description as filed. Therefore, Applicants request that the § 112 rejection of claims 2-3 and 7-8 be withdrawn.

V. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as his invention. Each of the issues stated in the Office action has been addressed in the amendments. The current claims are all believed to be in proper form. Therefore, Applicants request that the § 112 rejection of claims 1-3, 5-7, and 9-10 be withdrawn.

VI. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 6-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 6, as amended recites, "A method of securing access to an electronic memory, comprising: encrypting at least one parameter, of at least one access-secured memory area, wherein the parameter to be encrypted of the sub-area is encrypted only in certain areas to increase security of the electronic memory." Support for the amendment may be found, for example, in the Abstract of the application as filed. Applicants believe that the claim, as amended, is directed to patentable statutory subject matter. Therefore, Applicants request that the § 101 rejection of claims 6-9 be withdrawn.

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VII. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-4, 11

Claim 1 was rejected as allegedly being anticipated by Candelore et al. (EP 0908810 A2).

Claim 1, as amended, recites in part, “the device configured such that the parameter of at least one sub-area is encrypted only in certain areas depending on at least one further sub-area.” The amendment better sets forth the subject matter being claimed and, in particular, uses more conventional phrasing.

In rejecting original claim 1, the Office action points to Candelore at col. 24, lines 6-11, 15-17. Candelore, at col. 24, lines 6-11, describes use of triple DES for block encryption with the first key used with high order address lines, the second key used for low order address lines, and a third key used for a unit-dependent way. At col. 24, lines 15-17, Candelore describes hashing with a key that is an XOR of an address and a unit key.

Thus, Candelore does not appear to describe a data processing device with “the device configured such that the parameter of at least one sub-area is encrypted only in certain areas depending on at least one further sub-area,” as recited by amended claim 1. Therefore, Applicants request that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn and that this claim be allowed.

Claims 2-4 and 11 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1, and each incorporates all the terms and limitations of claim 1 in addition to other limitations that further patentably distinguish them over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 2-4 and 11 be withdrawn and that these claims be allowed.

Claims 6-9, 12

Claim 6 was rejected as allegedly being anticipated by Candelore et al. (EP 0908810 A2). Claim 6, as amended, recites, “A method of securing access to an electronic memory, comprising encrypting at least one parameter, of at least one of a plurality of access-secured sub-areas of the electronic memory, wherein the parameter to be encrypted of the sub-area is encrypted only in

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certain areas to increase security of the electronic memory.” The amendment better sets forth the subject matter being claimed and, in particular, uses more conventional phrasing.

In rejecting original claim 6, the Office action points to Candelore at col. 24, lines 6-11, 15-17. The content of the cited sections is discussed above regarding claim 1.

Thus, Candelore does not appear to describe “A method of securing access to an electronic memory, comprising encrypting at least one parameter, of at least one of a plurality of access-secured sub-areas of the electronic memory, wherein the parameter to be encrypted of the sub-area is encrypted only in certain areas to increase security of the electronic memory.” as recited by amended claim 6. Therefore, Applicants request that the rejection of claim 6 be withdrawn and that this claim be allowed.

Claims 7-9 and 12 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 6, and each incorporates all the terms and limitations of claim 6 in addition to other limitations that further patentably distinguish them over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 7-9 and 12 be withdrawn and that these claims be allowed.

Claim 10

Claim 10 was rejected as allegedly being anticipated by Candelore et al. (EP 0908810 A2).

Claim 10, as amended, recites in part, “the device configured such that the parameter of at least one sub-area is encrypted only in certain areas depending on at least one further sub-area.” The amendment sets forth the claim in independent form and uses more conventional phrasing.

In rejecting original claim 10, the Office action points to Candelore at col. 1, lines 57-58, col. 2, lines 11-15. Candelore, at col. 1, lines 57-58, states, “A storage device is a discrete memory component, such as an IC, of various types.” At col. 2, lines 11-15, Candelore describes possible types of storage devices including smart card.

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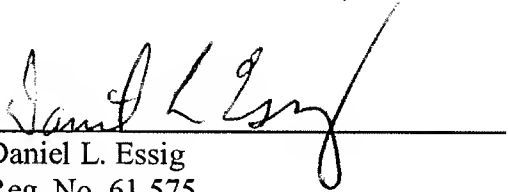
Accordingly, Candelore does not appear to describe “the device configured such that the parameter of at least one sub-area is encrypted only in certain areas depending on at least one further sub-area,” as recited by amended claim 10. Therefore, Applicants request that the rejection of claim 10 be withdrawn and that this claim be allowed.

VIII. Concluding Remarks

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants earnestly solicit an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance with claims 1-4 and 6-12.

Respectfully submitted,

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